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at a point about 7,500 feet above sea level at the base of Mt. Timpanogos with an elevation of 12,000 feet. Courses were offered in botany and geology.

THE Rockefeller Foundation, through Dr. Platt W. Covington, state director of the International Health Board of the Foundation, has agreed to donate the sum of \$5,000 yearly for three years toward establishing a laboratory in San Bernardino County, California, for research work. A condition is made that the county provide a like sum for the three-year period and furnish the laboratory and an experienced physician and chemist to be placed in charge of the work. San Bernardino is one of three counties in the state to receive the offer. The object of the proposal is to better health conditions and provide means for lowering the heavy death rate.

AN effort is being made in England to raise \$100,000 for the construction of an airship to fly to the North Pole. Captain Charles Frobisher, formerly a war pilot, is the leader. His idea is to start with an airship from London and fly by way of Christiana and North Cape and Bear Island to Spitzbergen, where the airship would be overhauled for the final 700-mile dash. His estimate is that it would not be necessary for the ship to attain a speed of more than fifty miles an hour in order to reach the goal, and that a crew of ten and supplies could be easily carried. Another advantage of the airship over the airplane is the proposed installation of a powerful wireless in order to maintain communication with the outside world.

DURING October the following public lectures will be given at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden:

October 7—"A Garden Pilgrimage in England": Mr. Montague Free, horticulturist, Brooklyn Botanic Garden.

October 14—"The Origin of Cultivated Plants": Dr. Orlando E. White, curator of plant breeding, Brooklyn Botanic Garden.

October 21—"Four Seasons in the Garden": Mr. Leonard Barron, editor of *The Garden Magazine*, Garden City, L. I.

October 28—"Health and Disease in Plants": Dr. Arthur Harmount Graves, curator of public instruction, Brooklyn Botanic Garden.

ACCORDING to a dispatch to the *London Times*, the opinion was expressed at the meeting of the Association of Tropical Medicine, which is holding its conference at Hamburg, attended by scientists from Holland, Java, Turkey, South America and Germany, that Germany has made a discovery of considerable importance. "Beyer 205," the discovery of the Bayerische Farbwerke, is said to be a cure for sleeping sickness, both for human beings and animals. This drug kills the microbe causing sleeping sickness in man and animals without injuring the patient. The Bayerische Farbwerke has supplied the Belgian colonial minister, on his request, with a quantity of "205" for research purposes to be used in the laboratories at Leopoldville in the Congo, and the Belgian technical schools for tropical diseases. German scientists expect, owing to the latest development, that this discovery will point the way to a cure for malaria and also coast fever in animals.

A REPORT was presented to the French Academy of Sciences on August 21 which gave the results of an examination by Professor Louis Boutan, of Bordeaux, of a "cultivated" pearl made by Mr. Mikimoto's method. Professor Boutan's conclusion is that the Mikimoto pearls are apparently identical with natural ones. M. Boutan says that the apparatus, by means of which MM. Galibourg and Rysiger disclose the artificial nucleus which is to be found in the ordinary cultivated pearls, is of no use in distinguishing those of the Mikimoto variety, as these have no nucleus. M. Louis Joubin, who presented the report to the academy, made the interesting point that as the "culture" process is applied to oysters which produce pearls spontaneously, Mr. Mikimoto himself can never be sure that his "cultivated" pearl is not an ordinary natural one. One effect of the report would appear to be that the authenticity of "real" pearls now depends entirely on the word of the man who sells them.

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NOTES

THE will of the late Frederick Bertuch bequeathes, to take effect on the death of Mrs.

Bertuch, \$750,000 to public purposes. Among these bequests are \$100,000 to Columbia University for poor students and \$50,000 to Cooper Union.

THE *Journal* of the American Medical Association reports that the Medical School of the University of Rochester is making progress. A research laboratory will be completed in about three months. An affiliation is being brought about between the city authorities and the university for the building of a municipal hospital on or near the university campus, and, in accordance with the arrangements, the university medical school will furnish the professional training and nursing staffs, and the medical teaching will be carried on in the hospital. Walter R. Bloor, Ph.D., of the University of California Medical School, has accepted the chair of biochemistry, and will begin his work this fall. Dr. George W. Corner, now at Johns Hopkins University, is to be the professor of anatomy. He will assume his duties at Rochester early in 1924. Dr. Nathaniel W. Faxon, now of the Massachusetts General Hospital, will assume the position of director of the University Hospital on October 15. The school will be ready to receive students in the fall of 1924 or 1925.

DR. RICHARD M. SMITH, instructor in pediatrics, Medical School of Harvard University, has been appointed assistant professor of child hygiene in the new school of public health.

DR. CHARLES P. ALEXANDER, of the Illinois Natural History Survey, has been elected assistant professor of entomology at the Massachusetts Agricultural College, to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Dr. W. S. Regan last autumn.

DR. ALEX. McTAGGART, formerly agriculturist of the Department of Agriculture Museum at Wellington, New Zealand, has been appointed assistant professor of agronomy at Macdonald College, Canada. He will be in charge of plant breeding work, with special reference to grasses and clovers.

DR. J. W. McLEOD, lecturer in bacteriology at the University of Leeds, has been appointed the first occupant of the Sir Edward Brotherton chair of bacteriology in that university.

## DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

### THE ZODIACAL LIGHT

THE most brilliant display of the zodiacal light that I have observed occurred on the night of April 8, 1922. My point of observation was Poulan, Worth County, Georgia (latitude 31-30 north; longitude 83-45 west). The light covered more of the heavens than shown as a zone of zodiacal light in any of the several hundred charts made of it by an observer with Commodore Perry's expedition to Japan in 1853-1856, and printed in a huge tomed report by the United States government as a part of the reports of that historic occurrence. One great volume of the Perry reports is given over entirely to the zodiacal light, forming the most massive single piece of literature upon the subject. I have observed the zodiacal light from the Straits of Magellan to 46 north latitude without having seen such a display as the one here alluded to. It dulled the near full moon. There was not a cloud in the sky. In the brilliant moonlight the zodiacal light made the spots in the heavens unilluminated by it looks like coal sacks, so great was the contrast. I have seen the aurora borealis above the Arctic circle and the aurora australis below the Antarctic line, and seldom were these exhibitions more brilliant and effective than the display that was neither on the night of April 8 last. It must be true that observers in southern latitudes are often confused by the zodiacal light and take it for an auroral burst. The zodiacal light is usually most noticeable in the western sky. This one covered more than half the heavens irregularly. It continued from 9 P.M. until 3 A.M. with varying brilliancy. Judge Roberts P. Hudson, of Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, was my companion observer on the night of April 8.

CHASE S. OSBORN

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### THE MEALY-BUG CALLED *PSEUDOCOCCUS BROMELIÆ*, AND OTHER COCCIDS

IN my recent review of Wheeler on *Tachigalia* insects, I gave a footnote questioning the validity of the name *Pseudococcus bromeliæ* (Bouché), as applied to the species of mealy-bug found on *Tachigalia*. This has brought